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DESCRIPTION

AT THE

LOWEST RATES.

AT THE FISH CANNERIES.

A Description of the Wheels with Which the Fish Are Caught.

When on the Columbia river last summer, writes a correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean, I saw those wonderful "fish wheels," by which the fine salmon of that magnificent river are taken. One, which I examined particularly while in operation, was thirty-six feet in diameter, with the other measurements in proportion. It was permanently placed in its settings near the shore, with a sort of fence running from it and widening out into the stream below, as to compel the fish from quite a width of the river to come that way. The current, of course, turns the wheel, which is so set with wire that when the mighty paddles go down any thing of size that comes that way is at once lifted out of the water.

Now the salmon is no "happy-go-lucky" fish. It will not float with the current, but, instead, ever goes against it, sometimes, too, at the rate of twenty miles an hour. So, drawn in by this fence inclosure, battling with a five or six-mile current they rush into the wire cages of this revolving wheel and are lifted out of the water. This wheel is so arranged with troughs on a slant between the paddles that the fish are dropped into a large tank, through the aperture of which the water runs freely. And this tank is so fixed with pulleys that whenever desired it can be lifted above the river, and the water immediately running out the fish are readily killed and then taken in boat loads to the canning factory.

There are several of these wheels to each factory. And looking into one of these factories I saw a large room, possibly forty feet square, covered a foot or two deep with fish, waiting patiently to be put through the necessary processes and get safely housed in cans.

With one of these wheels, so I was told by a boss fisherman, they took out last spring, in twenty-four hours, 162,000 pounds. When I was there the best of the season was passed, but even then they were doing a lively business. One salmon then taken would measure about four feet in length, but the most of them that were being flopped over would weigh from five to twenty pounds. The smaller ones they do not desire, and so the slaves on the wheel are in it sufficiently coarse to let them through, and they fell back into the current to be picked up again some future day when grown to respectable and paying size.

There were pointed out to me several varieties of the salmon, some of which for instance the "dog" and "white," are either discarded altogether, or traded off for tankards to the Indians. But, when not being watched, the temptation must be considerable to make good market of them all. The "blue-black" and the dark and spotted varieties have the most grain and flavor, and so are the most prized. But many a salmon that is eaten and relished in Chicago would not be served in Portland. But since all can not live in Oregon, it is well that with this dish people are not over dainty, for "when ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

Beautiful Women of Peru.

As all the world knows the women of Lima are proverbial for their beauty, says a Lima letter. Such large, liquid, "soulful" eyes; such rosebud lips and pearly teeth; such dainty hands and feet and rounded arms and graceful figures it would be hard to find so commonly anywhere else on the earth. A comparatively few of the most ultra-fashionable wear modern hats and bonnets for state occasions, but the vast majority still cover their glossy black tresses with the lace mantilla or black mantle of silk or woolen. The latter is the only correct thing for church wear among young and old, rich and poor; and a bonnet would no more be allowed during service than a gentleman at the north would be expected to come to the communion altar with his hat on his head. But the mantas are no longer put on, as formerly, so that only one eye of the wearer is visible, but are disposed with more or less coquettish effect, and are vastly more becoming to the Castilian type of beauty than the most elaborate triumphs of French millinery.

Killed by a Kiss.

About two years ago I was requested to investigate a case of sudden death, says a writer in the New York World. I had often heard of persons dying of fright, but I was not prepared to believe it. Upon being conducted into the parlor I was informed by the owner, a well-known merchant, that his daughter had died under peculiar circumstances. She had arisen in good health and spirits. While she was seated at the table talking with her mother, her brother, who was about to leave for business, came up behind her stealthily and kissed her full in the mouth before she was aware of it. The girl screamed, sunk back in a dead faint, and when she was brought to went into convulsions, and died before medical attendance could arrive. The whole family were of a nervous temperament, very excitable, and subject to hysteria. The autopsy showed that the girl had been perfectly healthy. Death was undoubtedly due to a nervous shock.

Minimo Sea Organisms.

The surface of the sea is alive with vast swarms of minute organisms, both plants and animals, and the Challenger investigations have shown conclusively that swarms of these keep dropping day and night like a constant rain toward the ooze of the bottom.

THE BACTERIA FAD.

Science Goes Mad in the Hands of Enthusiasts.

These doctors are a wearisome lot, observes the Milwaukee Sentinel. If the world were foolish enough to attempt to follow all their suggestions and to avoid all that hygienic cracks declare to be dangerous, living would be impossible except under conditions that would make living intolerable. The latest fad, next to the disposition of surgeons to extirpate all the important organs of the body, is to find bacteria everywhere, and to warn people against doing, for fear of bacteria, what it is necessary to do in order to get through at all. A Buffalo doctor has found nothing better to occupy his time or no better way to advertise himself than to examine under the microscope the straps in the street cars by which unhappy wretches maintain an upright position when the cars are crowded. He finds these straps "fairly reeking with bacteria." This is a strange use of the word reek. We might as well speak of the atmosphere as reeking with birds. Reeking means steaming or smoking. Bacteria have just as much right to be everywhere as birds and butterflies have to fly in the air, and they are for the most part as harmless. The idea the doctors seek to convey is that where there is microscopic life there is danger to health. If there is a space on earth where microscopic life does not exist, man can not exist on that spot. The air we breathe, the water we drink, is full of harmless animalcules, and would not be life-sustaining otherwise.

We are warned against sneezing, except into a bacterium receiver, for fear of letting loose into the air destructive bacteria to attack the nasal membranes of other folks. We are warned against receiving money—hard money or paper money—without first putting it through a disinfecting process. We are told to go through the world with a strainer over the nose and the mouth, with carbolic gloves, and so on. In short, if we are to stand any show of living to a reasonable age we are to shut ourselves up in gauze saturated with disinfecting preparations, drink distilled water, abstain from every thing we like, and have no other concern in the world than the care of health.

There are certain reasonable sanitary rules based on a few facts of observation that are worthy of serious attention. They are not attended to ordinarily, because hygienic cracks urge so many ridiculous and impossible rules and so constantly shock the common sense of mankind. To ask a rational being to refrain from grasping a friend's hand for fear of bacteria, to deny himself the pleasure of osculation, and all that, is too much. If these doctors persist in pointing out microscopic life wherever they find it the thing is to recognize the fact that microscopic life is edible and wholesome—raw, fried, stewed, baked or in any other form. We are made up—all of us and in every part of us—of microscopic organisms. A man is simply a collection of such organisms, every minute particle of his being having an independent life. There is nothing to be frightened at. Bacteria have been in the world a good while, and enough people have managed to live to make it a pretty active world.

BUFFALO BONES.

Hundreds of Tons of Them Shipped to Eastern Manufacturers.

Not satisfied with killing the buffalo for his fur, says the Grand Forks (N. D.) Plaindealer, the avaricious man now picks up the dry bones, as they are found over the State, and sells them to Eastern manufacturers. Only a few years ago these animals numbered millions. Now there may be fifty within this State. A few figures regarding the bones of the animals slaughtered during the last few years will show in what numbers they existed. Where the buffalo flourished there his cousin, the domesticated cow, will thrive, and sheep and horses will do especially well on the nutritious herbage that enticed the bison from the south and central plains. From the single station of Minot there were shipped of buffalo bones in 1886, two hundred and twenty-five tons; in 1887, six hundred tons; in 1888, three hundred and seventy-five tons; in 1889, two thousand seven hundred and seventy-five tons; and there have been shipped this year and are ready for shipment, at that one station, two thousand four hundred tons. Col. Lounsbury estimates these bones represent two hundred and fifty-nine thousand two hundred animals, and that these shipments do not represent over one-thirtieth of the entire amount of buffalo bones that have been bleached on the sunny surface of North Dakota—bones that once were the frame work of seven million buffaloes.

Electric Cure for Rheumatism.

Accounts come from St. Louis of the latest craze in that city, which is to ride on the electric car to cure rheumatism. A greater number than would be imagined of the crowds that fill the electric cars are people who have the idea that electricity will cure every ailment under the sun, and in St. Louis these adherents of the electric faith propound a master especially strong. A conductor on one of the street-car lines is reported as saying: "It is amusing to see passengers on our line crying each other and whispering to companions about the new cure for rheumatism. If a man, woman or child boards a car with a crutch or cane you can hear whispers to the effect that there is a rheumatic patient out to test the new cure."

HEBREWS IN AMERICA.

Results Announced of a Special Inquiry by the Census Bureau.

The division of vital statistics of the Census Office has prepared a bulletin, says the Washington Star, containing a summary of the results of a special inquiry concerning the Jews in this country.

A special schedule was prepared calling for details of age, sex, conjugal condition, place of birth, occupation, etc., of each person in the family reported who was living on the first of December, 1882, and of certain details concerning births, marriages and deaths occurring in the family for the five years ended on that date.

These schedules were distributed to heads of Jewish families in all parts of the United States, the necessary names and addresses being obtained from rabbis of congregations and officers of different societies. No effort was made to obtain complete returns from all the Jews in the country, nor to develop any facts concerning religious or commercial questions, but merely to obtain data from a sufficient number of families who have been in the United States five or more years to afford some reliable deductions concerning the effect of residence under the conditions of life in this country as contrasted with those elsewhere. The inquiry resulted in the return of 10,618 completed family schedules, embracing 99,680 living persons on the first day of December, 1882, and in these families there had been 2,148 marriages, 6,088 births, and 4,093 deaths during the five years ending that date.

The social condition of the families is indicated to some extent by the number of servants kept by them, and, as about two-thirds are reported as keeping one or more servants, the families reported may be said to be in easy circumstances.

The average number of persons to each family on December 31, 1889, was 2.71, and the average annual number for the five years covered by these statistics was 2.47. The average annual number of marriages per 1,000 of total population was much lower than the general rate, being but 7.4, as against 18 to 23 per 1,000 in the Eastern States; and the average age at marriage is greater than among the general population. The low marriage rate and the increased average age at marriage are the principal reasons for the low birth rate.

The deaths reported for the five years give an average annual death rate of 7.11 per 1,000 of population, being about half of the average rate for the general population.

The expectation of life at the age of 10 years, based upon the death rate for the year 1889, is 61.11 and 66.03 years for males and females, respectively, as against 40.99 and 48.05 as calculated by life insurance companies for the general population of this country.

Contrasting the birth and death rates for those of native-born and foreign-born parents indicates that the birth rate is decreasing and the death rate increasing with more prolonged residence in this country, but the general results indicate that the Jews here retain many of the peculiarities which have been noted among them in Europe.

THE CORINTH CANAL.

Interesting Particulars Concerning a Great Undertaking.

The Corinth canal, which will sever the Peloponnesus from the mainland of Greece, and will permit the largest ships to pass directly from the Gulf of Athens to the Gulf of Corinth, is said to be rapidly approaching completion. A recently published account gives some interesting particulars concerning the undertaking.

The work was begun, says the Engineering and Building Record, some eight years ago by a French company. It was to have been finished in 1887, but various troubles delayed it, and now 1896 is named as the earliest date on which it can be opened for traffic. The canal will have no locks, but is level from end to end and is perfectly straight. It is to be ninety-six feet wide and thirty-six feet deep. At the Corinth end it is crossed by a railroad bridge 164 feet high, under which the tallest ships may pass without lowering their topmasts. With the exception of about 900 yards in the center the channel, it is said, has already been excavated down to sea level, and water has been admitted for about half a mile at the Corinth end and half that distance at the other. The total cost of the canal is reckoned at \$14,000,000, or about \$5,500,000 a mile.

Latest Fad in Bath-Tubs.

It is quite possible, indeed it is very easy, to pay fifteen hundred dollars for a bath-tub in these days, says the New York Sun. For seven hundred dollars or eight hundred dollars the makers now offer tubs of iron faced with porcelain and then boxed around with marble in such a way that to all appearance the whole tub is carved out of the beautiful stone. But if you want to bathe elegantly and have fifteen hundred dollars to spare you may buy a bath-tub all marble outside and raised at one end to a height of ten feet to accommodate a shower-spray in a tall marble tower that is open at the end toward the rest of the tub. If you put this in your bath-room and cover the walls and floor with glazed tiles and set up a cheval glass seven feet high in which to look at yourself while you bathe you will be quite in the fashion and out twenty-five hundred dollars at the least.

EMPLOYMENT

ENGLAND'S SNOW-STORMS

Severe Winters Which Will Always Be Remembered.

A Record of the Cold Storms Experienced in Great Britain During the Last Two Centuries—Six Months of Steady Snow.

The great snow-storm, when the Thames was frozen over for nearly four months, occurred in 1683-84, says a writer in London Tit-Bits. The frost continued without intermission from December to February; snow coming down almost continuously, so that some parts of the country were well-nigh impassable. To add to the discomfort of the Londoners, the Thames, which was a source of pride and pleasure, was a source of great privation. Provisions were dear, horses and cattle often died of cold, and scarcely a bird lived through the winter. The citizens of London, however, resolved on having some profit out of the extraordinary weather, built a regular colony on the ice-bound Thames. Shops, taverns, coffee-houses, booths for dramatic representations, printing offices and similar buildings sprang up like magic. This winter was probably the severest ever known in England, though the following one of 1684-85 was famous for its extreme cold.

In 1719 came a week's fall of snow in January, followed by a long, hard frost. Provisions became so dear in the west of England that bread was sold by its weight in money, and coals were forty shillings a quart. The year of 1784 was remarkable for another severe winter. Snow began falling on the 7th of October and fell, almost without intermission, until the 3d of April in the following year, or for nearly 180 days in all. In addition to this a strong frost prevailed during the same period. The Thames was again frozen over in 1788, 1793 and 1798. In the following year, the last of the century, a terrible snow-storm raged throughout the midland counties. In his work on the "Climate of England," Whistler says that during the storm a poor woman named Woodcock, a native of Cambridge, was buried in the snow for eight days. She lived for several months after being rescued.

The year 1813 is famous in history as that of the terrible retreat of the grand army from Moscow, in which Napoleon's forces were weakened by the loss of four hundred thousand men. This year saw some exceptionally severe snow-storms in the southwest of England. Bray, a local magnate of Lavisock, returning from Exeter by way of Dartmoor, found the snow so thick at Morton Hampstead that it was impossible to proceed farther on his homeward journey. At Morton Hampstead he was obliged to remain for no less than three weeks until the snow had cleared off sufficiently for him to resume his travels. The winter of 1814 is still remembered by some very old people as that of the "Great Frost." Snow was so deep and remained so long on the roads that the mail coaches were prevented from running, and communication between the chief centers of population was extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.

Six years later the southwest of England suffered from another terribly severe snow-storm. On Dartmoor the snow was several feet deep, and numerous fatalities occurred, persons not only being lost, but those who went out to seek them also perishing in the great drifts. The snow-storm of December, 1880, was the most severe fall known to England since that of 1719. The snow began falling on the 24th and continued over Christmas day into Boxing day. By the evening of the latter it had drifted in some places to a depth of forty and even fifty feet. This snow-storm extended all over the country, and numerous lives were lost in it. Business was almost at a standstill, as the mail coaches could not run, and correspondence was delayed for over a week.

In 1844 came another severe snow-storm, during which several mail coaches had to be dug out of the drifts, among them being the noted "Quick-silver," once famous for its rapid trips. Seventy men were employed in releasing this coach from the snow, before it could proceed on its way. During the last forty years there have been several severe snow-storms, but none great enough to warrant us in contradicting our grandfathers when they say that "these times are nothing like the old ones—for snow-storms or any thing else."

BRAVE DEED OF A GIRL

How a Thirteen-Year-Old Maid Dragged a Panther to Death.

A most remarkable story of frontier bravery, the heroine being Miss Pauline Collier, a young lady sixteen years of age, comes from Childress, a new town in the Pan-handle country, this State, says a letter from San Antonio, Tex. Miss Collier is a pupil in the Childress district school, and although she lives ten miles from that town she makes the trip back and forth each day on a spirited Texas pony. One morning last week she left home at an early hour and was riding leisurely along when she espied an enormous panther immediately in front of her, crouched in the short prairie grass, ready for a fatal spring. With admirable presence of mind Miss Collier seized the lariat hanging at her saddle-bow, and with great dexterity the animal's neck was encircled with the deadly coil. At a word from its mistress the pony which Miss Collier was riding sprang away at a gallop, dragging the savage but helpless monster to its death. Upon becoming satisfied that the animal's life was extinct the young lady undid the rope from the pommel of her saddle, leaving the panther stretched upon the prairie behind her. Proceeding on her way to school she met John Perry in company with several cowboys and related the story. They went to the spot where the dead panther lay and proceeded to denude it of its hide, which will be made into a robe and presented to the young lady. The panther weighed two hundred and ten pounds.

SEVEN-SCORE OF YEARS.

The Extreme Old Age of Some Southern California Indians.

The early inhabitants of Southern California, according to the statement of H. H. Bancroft and other reports, were found to be living in Spartan conditions as to temperance and training, and in a highly moral condition, in consequence of which they had uncommon physical endurance and contempt for luxury. This training in abstinence and hardihood, with temperance in diet, combined with the climate to produce the astonishing longevity to be found here, says Charles Dudley Warner in Harper's Magazine. Contrary to the customs of most other tribes of Indians, their aged were the care of the community. Dr. W. A. Winder, of San Diego, is quoted as saying that in a visit to El Cajon valley some thirty years ago he was taken to a house in which the aged persons were cared for. There were half a dozen who had reached an extreme age. Some were unable to move, their bony frames being seemingly ankylosed. They were old, wrinkled and blue-eyed; their skin was hanging in leathery folds about their withered limbs; some had hair as white as snow, and had seen some seven-score of years; others, still able to crawl, but so aged as to be unable to stand, went slowly about on their hands and knees, their limbs being attenuated and withered. The organs of special sense had in many nearly lost all activity some generations back. Some had lost the use of their limbs for more than a decade or a generation; but the organs of life and the "great sympathetic" still kept up their automatic functions, not recognizing the fact, and surprisingly indifferent to it, that the rest of the body had ceased to be of any use a generation or more in the past. Dr. Palmer has a photograph (which I have seen) of a squaw whom he estimates to be one hundred and twenty-six years old. When he visited her he saw her put six watermelons in a blanket, tie it up, and carry it on her back for two miles. He is familiar with Indian customs and history, and a careful cross-examination convinced him that her information of old customs was not obtained by tradition. She was conversant with tribal habits she had seen practiced, such as the cremation of the dead, which the mission fathers had compelled the Indians to relinquish. She had seen the Indians punished by the fathers with floggings for persisting in the practice of cremation.

At the mission of San Tomas, in Lower California, is still living an Indian (a photograph of whom Dr. Remondino shows), bent and wrinkled, whose age is computed at one hundred and forty years. Although blind and naked he is still active, and daily goes down the beach and along the beds of the creeks in search of driftwood, making it his daily task to gather and carry to camp a bag of wood.

HIGH-PRICED DRUGS.

Preparations Which Are as Costly as Precious Stones.

We would, perhaps, wonder less at the fancy charges made by physicians and surgeons who have rare and exceptional cases in charge if we only knew the cost of drugs they use in special diseases. For the benefit of the army of "the curious" the St. Louis Republic has prepared the following list of scarce and expensive drugs:

Three-pound bottle of alkaloid of acetonine, \$485.50; quarter-ounce vial of chelidonic alkaloid, a new drug used in skin diseases, scrofula and dropsy, \$88; cocaine, about \$190 per pound. A five-ounce bottle of "true cotin" will cost about \$350, or about \$70 an ounce. Crystals of elaterin, a poison used in cases of hydrophobia and lockjaw, prepared from a plant called South American Indian arrow, is worth about \$145 per ounce.

Among other costly drugs we might mention the following and the different size bottles and vials in which they are sold: Agaricin, 4 1/2 ounces, \$48.75; colocythin, 5 1/2 ounces, \$114.75; conine hydrochlorate, 4 1/2 ounces, \$98.45; cyclamin, 8 1/2 ounces, \$54.04; digitonin, 1 1/2 ounces, \$84.40; gentisin, 1 1/2 ounces, \$61.18; heliotropin, 6 ounces, \$61.35; dydrastine hydrochlorate, 6 1/2 ounces, \$194.40; papayotin, used as a solvent for the diphtheric membrane, 18 ounce bottle, per bottle, \$189.50.

Besides the above there are various preparations made from the Calabar bean, the cost of which is amazing. They are chiefly used in diseases of the eye. One is called physostigmine alkaloid, and costs \$187.50 per ounce vial. Physostigmine crystals are still more expensive, being sold in two and one-half ounce bottles at a cost of \$603.18. Still another preparation of the Calabar is physostigmine calceolate crystals, an aristocratic drug that surely furnishes a costly cup of tea for the pyramid of costly stuffs, which is furnished to the consumer who is able to pay at the reasonable charge of \$1,510.00 for a two ounce vial.

Money in a Meteor.

There is in the office of the Merchants' National Bank, of Kansas City, says the Times of that city, a fragment of a meteor which has a peculiar history. A farmer in Western Kansas had borrowed more money on his farm than he found himself able to repay. While meditating over his bad fortune, but, with the usual energy of the Kansas farmer, still tilling his soil, he turned up this meteoric stone and examined it, but discovered nothing peculiar in its make-up until a relative from the East, who was visiting him, noticed it and told him it was of great value. The farmer communicated with Prof. John Hay, State Geologist, at Junction City, Kan., who visited the place and confirmed the opinion of the relative, and caused collectors of such stones to compete for its purchase. It was sold for a sum largely in excess of the amount required to redeem his home from the money lender.

Rumor has it that the Princess of Wales is an eminently clever milliner, and gives finishing touches to all her own bonnets and hats.

ROBBING THE MAILS.

The Ingenious Plan of a Merry Post-Office Thief.

"We got some pretty tough cases," said an old post-office inspector, "but it has been my fortune to run down every case on which I was set to work."

"What was the most difficult case you ever handled?" asked the reporter of the Cincinnati Times-Star.

"It happened while I was stationed at Utica, N. Y., about seven years ago," replied the inspector. "Many letters containing valuables had been mislaid, and by dint of hard work we managed to trace the job down to one clerk, a shaven-faced young fellow of about twenty-two years. He was a clerk who distributed the letters into the boxes of the carriers."

"As I said, we managed to get this far on the case and then I got my trap. I had a decoy letter containing a twenty dollar gold piece mailed from a country town in Connecticut to a prominent store dealer in Utica. The letter failed to reach the carrier promptly, and I felt we had our man solid at last."

"I waited for him until the dinner hour and as he came out of the office accosted him. He came with me, and, look as closely as I might, I failed to detect any signs of uneasiness in his features; they were perfectly homely. He walked with me into the office of the postmaster and submitted to a thorough search, but no trace of the letter or twenty dollar gold piece was found on his person."

"To say I was dumfounded is drawing it mildly. He appeared to be very indignant. But, whether I was right or wrong at the time, the petty robberies came to a sudden stop. No more complaints were heard of for a month. Then they began again. This time I was bound I would not fail, so I set a watch on my man."

"One day when I was about to give up the case in despair I noticed the fellow tearing up an envelope, and dropping it to the floor. When he had gone I picked up the scraps of paper and after a hard job managed to piece it. I was disappointed when I saw that the envelope had been addressed to himself. I was about to walk away when a thought struck me."

"I came down the next morning before the young clerk came to work, and stationed myself behind a letter rack, free from observation, but in such a position that I could see the fellow's every action. I saw him take several stamped and addressed envelopes from his pocket and walk over to the stamping table and cancel the stamps. During the course of the morning I saw the fellow slip four letters inside of as many envelopes and seal the envelopes. Then I knew my suspicions were correct. I went to the carrier who carried the letters to the man's home and secured the four letters addressed to the fellow himself."

"Have you carried many letters like this?" I asked him.

"Yes sir," the carrier said. "I carry four or five a day."

"Then I called the fellow into my office and told him we had determined to have the mail of the clerks delivered at the office to lighten the duties of the carriers. I then told him that I had four letters for him, and handed him the missives I had received from the post-man. The fellow turned pale, and was on the verge of fainting when I asked him to open and read the letters in my presence."

"With trembling hands he did so, and inside the envelopes addressed to himself I found four valuable letters addressed to a big wholesale house. He broke down and confessed that he had been stealing for about six months and that during that period he had abstracted nearly fifteen hundred dollars from business letters. He had spent the money in gambling."

Franklin and the French. By his manners and ways of life he became the most popular man in France, so that when he gained his reputation to the King his future was assured. As he passed through the streets of Paris he was followed by admiring eyes and cheered loudly by enthusiastic voices, says the Century. A contemporary writer writes: "A friend of mine paid something for a place at a two-pair-of-stairs window to see him pass by in his coach, but the crowd was so great that he could not barely see him. He was the Frenchman's embodiment of the ideal citizen, republican, philosopher and friend. He completely captivated and captured the people of France, whom he perfectly understood, and he well knew that a popular man becomes soon more powerful than power itself." Condorcet said: "It was an honor to have seen him. People reported what they had heard him say. Every iota which he consented to receive, every house where he condescended to go, spread in society new admirers, who became so many partisans of the American revolution."

Boston's Big Willow.

In a recent visit to Boston I was very much interested in observing the various kinds of weeping trees to be seen in that vicinity. Many that are not at all common, yet quite hardy withal, are to be seen planted in permanent locations and growing thriftily, says a writer in Victor's Magazine. The finest specimen I have ever seen stands close to the lake near the bridge, in Boston Public Garden. It is nearly or quite three feet in diameter, with a stem of three feet where it branches and spreads its magnificent drooping spray over a circle of seventy-five or eighty feet. Its height is about fifty feet. A drizzling rain prevented my sketching it, but I hope some enterprising horticultural journal will have it photographed and hand it down to posterity as the most perfect weeping willow ever grown—the king of willows, in fact.

Take Your Choice.

A Berlin chemist claims to have discovered a chemical preparation which will turn a living person to marble in six months, the petrification being complete one month after death. You can save your choice of white, black or spotted marble, and if a good figure on will be worth \$500 as a piece of statuary.

WHEN TO GIVE.

The Only Sure Way of Having One's Plans Carried Out.

There died the other day in New York an old merchant, who had been always conspicuous for intelligently directed energy in business and for simplicity of living. He was not put down on the short list of the great millionaires, nor even on that longer one of men who, though not millionaires, were still very wealthy. The modesty of his living had placed him on the list of the fairly well-to-do. His success in business, his unostentatious life, his high character as a man, a citizen and a merchant, all testified to his good sense, judgment and ability.

When his will was opened, says the Philadelphia Ledger, it was found that he died the possessor of several millions, variously estimated at from six to ten; it was also found that he had devised a very large part of his fortune to a number of colleges, and had done it in the case of each of them in such a free and intelligent manner as to again demonstrate his good sense and sound judgment. He did not, as so many do, make a one-sided ante-mortem bargain with the recipients of his bounty that they should use it in the erection of buildings, or in the endowment of chairs, or in any other way leading to the perpetuation of his name and his charitable disposition. He made no bargain at all with them, but ordered the various bequests to them to be used as in the judgment of the colleges should to them seem best.

Wise and generous as he was in giving well, he lacked the wisdom of giving timely. Like so many others who have greatly desired that the wealth accumulated by them should go to the helping of the world, he trusted the work of distribution to executors, instead of doing it himself. The result is the rather common one—his will is contested; is, if possible, to be set aside, and his benevolent purposes are to be defeated.

Had he himself done in life that which he directed his executors to do when he was dead, he would have had the assurance that it was certainly and well done. The great schools, the usefulness of which he desired to increase, would have had their usefulness increased beyond all peradventure, and his light of charity would have shone before men as to serve as an example and an incentive to others to emulate it. As it is, his purposes of well-doing may all be frustrated, and the millions which he wished should, and which he anticipated would, be employed in extending the beneficial influences of enlightened education, may be spent in costly legal contention, or otherwise less profitably than he who wrought for them intended they should be spent. To give most surely every man should himself give, and give timely, during his own active life, to the end that his designs shall not be set aside.

THE ZAMBESI RIVER.

It Has Been Found Navigable by Large Ocean Vessels.

It has long been known that the Zambesi river is the third or fourth largest river in Africa. In its central and upper portions, however, it can not be navigated on account of rapids and falls. Its lower course, also, has not been available for navigation from the sea, because as far as was known not one of the streams which form its delta could be navigated by a seagoing vessel. Two years ago Mr. Daniel Rankin surprised geographers by reporting that the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi could be traversed by all states of the tide by ocean vessels. The news was received with considerable incredulity, says the New York Sun, but Rankin was known to be a careful man, and his report upon his discovery was exhaustive and seemed to be conclusive. He surveyed the Chinde river and his map was widely published.

On the recent expedition of H. H. Johnston he proved the accuracy of Rankin's report. He ascended the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi in a steamer drawing thirteen feet of water, and had no difficulty at all in reaching the main river. Her Majesty's ship Stork, in which he made this journey, is certainly the largest vessel that has yet been on the Zambesi. He left the Stork when she had steamed forty miles up the river, as it was not deemed advisable to take her beyond the tidal influence. The rest of his journey up the Zambesi and Shiri rivers was made in small boats.

The old route to the Shiri was along the Quaqua river from Quilimane, a journey requiring several days of tedious travel in canoes until they reached Mocim, where the Quaqua is separated from the Zambesi by three miles of flat and swamp. At this point all the goods had to be carried overland to the Zambesi, involving a great deal of work.

Now, Mr. Johnston says, the trip which formerly required seven days from the sea to the mouth of the Shiri river can be made by steamer on the Chinde and Zambesi in three days, and small ocean-going vessels can travel from Europe and penetrate Africa for a considerable distance in this direction. It has therefore been discovered that the Zambesi will be more useful to commerce than was supposed.

Women and Champagne.

It is curious what a great deal women have to do with champagne, says the Detroit Free Press. The Marchale d'Estrees was a grand dame de par le monde; also was an excellent woman of business in right of birth, for she was the daughter of a Jewish financier. She had vineyards at Malley, Verzy, Verzenay and Sillery, but she united the produce of them all under the one name Sillery. She bestowed special pains upon the cultivation of her vineyards, and having a good wine to sell used her social position unparagonably to force it down the throats of her contemporaries. The popularity of Sillery seems to have been the beginning of that worship of brands which is so characteristic of the modern wine-drinker. The vineyards in the Champagne department cover 125,670 English acres, which produce about 14,000,000 gallons of wine annually, of which about one-third is sparkling wine.

WHEN IMMIGRATION WILL CEASE

America and Australia Will Have Room for Thousands of Emigrants.

According to Mr. Giffen a few generations more will see the end of immigration because there will be no room for more immigrants, all the blank habitable space having been occupied. Mr. Giffen is a master of statistics, says the London Standard, but his manipulation of figures in support of this rather dismal theory is open to objection. Takes the case of the United States—as at the present time the most attractive emigration field. Uncle Sam's territory, exclusive of Alaska, amounts, speaking roughly, to about 3,000,000 square miles. One-third of this Mr. Giffen deducts as uninhabitable; but if over the rest of the country becomes as populous as Western Europe the Americans will soon find means of utilizing and fertilizing their sage-brush and alkali deserts.

Then of the remaining 2,000,000 square miles he says that only about 100,000 square miles remain to be cultivated, implying that this is the only tract open to the agricultural immigrant. But any one who has visited that "great sloven continent," as Nathaniel Hawthorne styled America, will know that, although the remaining nineteen-twentieths have been alienated from the State and have become private property, only a small percentage of this area is cultivated, in the sense in which cultivation is understood in such countries as England, Holland and Belgium.

In the State of New York alone, despite the big city at its southern extremity, there are hundreds of square miles of wild land—land which could and would be cultivated if the pressure of population needed it. Depend on it that the United States, and still more Canada and Australasia, will need an abundance of strong, willing hands for many years to come, and we only regret that the working classes of our nation (that is the English, as distinguished from the Irish, the Scotch and the Welsh) show at the present time so little desire for emigration. England alone ought to send out at least 80,000 emigrants yearly; and in their new homes they would do more to preserve the unity of the Empire than any artificial federation schemes.

NEW METHODS OF WARFARE.

Electricity Applied to the Firing of Gatling Guns.

Recent experiments at the naval proving ground with a Gatling gun attached to an electric motor have determined a new method for firing this class of ordnance on shipboard, says the New York Tribune. The results were satisfactory, and hereafter guns mounted on deck or aloft will be operated by a motor. Landing parties on shore will continue to fire the gun by the usual method. The motor attachment is an improvement instituted by Dr. E. J. Gatling, and the plans of the arrangements were made by the Crocker-Wheeler Motor Company of New York City, who also furnished the electrical appliances. The adoption of the motor will result in an economy of men and in effort, and will increase the efficiency of the fire. Where before two men were required to operate the Gatling guns, only one will be necessary hereafter. Heretofore one man, the gunner, trained the gun and dropped the shot where they would produce the greatest effect and another operated the crank which sets in motion the mechanism of the piece. By the new system the gunner alone trains and operates the gun by touching a button.

The motor is attached to the breech of the gun and moves with it in all directions. It can be detached instantly, the connection being a specially devised one, and injury to the motor alone will not impair the usefulness of the gun. The greater steadiness of application by the electricity renders the Gatling gun more effective as a piece of ordnance than when operated by hand. The serving is as certain and there is increased regularity. These elements have entered into the new arrangement and given to the service another use for the electric current.

FUTURE OF THE OYSTER.

Its Extinction Threatened Unless New Methods Are Adopted.

A recent letter from General Bradley T. Johnston to a Baltimore paper predicting the extinction of the oyster beds unless measures shall be taken to replenish them is likely to bear good fruit. President Tyler, of William and Mary College of Virginia, in a letter to the Richmond Dispatch says that the college would gladly undertake the task of experimental oyster culture. The college is in the center of tide-water Virginia, contiguous to the oyster-beds of James and York rivers, and the gift to it of a few thousand acres of oyster lands would enable it to work out the question of oyster-culture on a scientific basis. The offer should enlist the ready co-operation of the State.

It may be true, as Florida papers say, that Indian river alone has oyster-beds enough to supply the continent for years, or, as one journal puts it, that "any settler along its banks who wants a few palmetto logs on the bottom of the river, throw a bushel of oysters upon it and they immediately go to growing and multiplying indefinitely." Admitting this, it is a well-known fact that some of the most highly-prized beds in our neighboring waters have virtually become exhausted, so that the varieties of oysters that made them famous are merely traditions now. Besides, oyster-culture has its scientific claims, and, irrespective of results, the proposition of the Virginia college is commendable as showing the practical tendency of college work in these days.

A Civilizing Process.

The holy synod established a monastery in Nova Zembla by way of experiment to find out whether the monks could exercise any civilizing influence on the people in the distant north. The experiment produced favorable results. Now a resolution has been adopted to establish monasteries at various points in the Government of Archangel and in the Petchora territories.

AN ADVENTURE ON THE GANGES

The Wreck of a Steamship Which Had Been Sunk.

On calling up the Ganges, says a writer in the Globe-Bulletin, my heart happened to be moved by the side of a large barge (a Bengal pleasure boat) in which a somewhat choleric gentleman was, as I conceived, at rest; all his hostmen and servants, to the number, I dare say, of twenty-five or thirty, were sleeping, rolled in their white shawls, upon the roof of the apartment in which he was lying, which rose like a poop above the deck. It was a beautiful night, and in the neighborhood of Calcutta, one of the most romantic parts of the river.

I was seated on the deck, although it was past midnight, enjoying the scene, when my contemplations were disturbed by an unusual splashing in the water. On turning in the direction of the noise I saw the unfortunate man leaping and tumbling into the river from the boat of my passionate neighbor, who was standing like a madman on the deck brandishing a stick over their heads. Never shall I forget the scene. The moon lit up his bald head, for he had thrown his nightcap at one of the people in a rage at not being able to reach him with his stick. The boatmen, who are always expert swimmers and did not seem to lose their presence of mind by the sudden transition, very soon reached the shore and gazed in astonishment, as I did myself, at the comedy in which they had taken such unexpected and conspicuous parts. I conceived some terrible offense must have been given to have called for such an uncompromising severity, for every one was driven from his berth. I was soon relieved from my suspense, however. The victor strutted two or three times over the deserted field, then turning toward the routed enemy, who seemed to rally on the banks, shook his stick at them and cried out in Hindostanee:

"I'll teach you to sneeze from sound-drela!"

This ludicrous explanation of the whole mystery affected the crew as it did myself, and a loud laugh was the reply. So extravagant a punishment for as natural a fault they thought it absurd to think further about; and with the greatest good humor, not willing, however, to run the risk of a second fight, they kindled a fire and, squatting around it, smoked their pipes and laughed at the event till it was time to prepare for sailing.

It is not likely so touchy a traveler would give a favorable account of the people he traveled among, as he was always one of their most violent abusers. Poor man! The recollection of his fate almost rebukes me for having written the above anecdote. He was murdered a short time afterward on the banks of the river in his progress to Cawnpore.

A LIVING COFFIN.

An Incident That Marked the First Voyage of an Old Sailor Man.

"I made my first voyage in 1854," said the mate of the Argenta at St. John, N. B., one day last summer, as the New York Sun reports the story. "I shipped in a brig bound from here to Glasgow with deals and rough spars. I was almost a man grown and had served a year in a sail loft, so that I could splice and cut and sew sails, but I shipped as ordinary seaman at ten shillings a month less than the other seamen. The second night out it came on to blow and we were routed out to take in sail. Before the wind was passed I was in my bunk in the fore-cabin—a house on deck, like the Argenta's—sitting there, and on the other side was another man sitting there looking at me very hard. All at once he points his finger at me and says: 'You murdered me wife!'

"I says: 'You're a liar! I never saw your wife.' I was pretty fresh for a boy, you know, but he took me all aboard, unexpected like, just as when the customs-house officer yesterday asked me where Greenland was. 'Well, there he sat, staring at me very sober, and pretty soon he points his finger at me again and says, solemn like: 'You murdered me wife!'

"You're a bloomin' liar," I says, again. 'I never saw your wife.' 'With that he begins telling me's going ashore to see a man he calls by name that used to live near St. John in those days, and turns to stowing his clothes in a bag, and we could see he was in the bellirums. He worked in a terrible hurry, singing out to a man he was outside in a dory waiting for him to hold fast a minute and he'd make haste, and just then comes the mate and bawls for all hands to reef topsails, as I was saying to you."

"That was my first night aloft, you know, and I never thought no more about his saying I'd murdered his wife till I got back to my bunk, after turning two reefs in the topsails. Then I saw he was gone."

"Next morning the second mate calls to me when I came on deck. 'Do you want to see the coffin of the man what said you murdered his wife?' says he."

"Yes, sir," says I. 'Come aft here and look over the rail, then,' says he. So I went and looked, and there was a shark about as big as that yawl swimming along under the counter, waiting for another of us."

In a Pound of Tea.

A man who argues that one pound of tea makes four hundred cups or three hundred ordinary-sized cups states his case as follows: The testers ordinarily use a silver five-cent piece for weighing the exact quantity required for a cup. As there are about twenty-five five-cent pieces to an ounce, and as there are sixteen ounces to a pound, it follows that one pound of tea will actually make four hundred cups, according to the standard of strength ordinarily required by professional testers. The cups used for this purpose contain, however, one-fourth less than the average domestic teacups. It will, therefore, be seen that after making due allowance for the difference in the size of the cups the number will be very close to three hundred.